



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To: The City Commission for the City of Key West

From: George B. Wallace, Assistant City Attorney

Date: March 6, 2017

RE: Ordinance revision to Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances titled "MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES" to prohibit the operation of "Conversion Therapy" Clinics or otherwise engaging in counseling efforts, practices, or treatments with the goal of changing a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Action statement:

A proposed ordinance making it a civil offense in the City of Key West to engage in the practice of subjecting minors to Conversion Therapy, commonly referred to as sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE). This Ordinance is sponsored by Commissioner Weekley.

Background : Numerous organizations , including but not limited to, the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation ("APA task Force"), the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association Council of Scientific Affairs as well as many others described in the proposed Ordinance

condemn the practice of reparative therapy or conversion therapy and recommend against the practice and indicate it may be harmful to the patient.

In order to promote the health, safety and welfare of the minor children of Key West an Ordinance is proposed to make it a civil infraction to practice reparative or conversion therapy, (SOCE) , as applied to minors, in the City of Key West.

Options:

1. Approve the proposed Ordinance criminalizing the practice of Conversion Therapy (SOCE) with minor children by making it a civil infraction in the City of Key West.
 2. Not to approve the proposed ordinance, thus leaving the minor children of the City of Key West exposed to the potential harmful effects of the practice of Conversion Therapy (SOCE).
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Recommendation:

To approve the proposed ordinance.
